

Apalachicola Parks and Recreation Committee
Meeting Minutes
Thursday, July 15, 2021

Attendees:

Members (4/7)

Elinor Mount-Simmons, presiding
Faye Gibson (Alternate), secretary
Donna Ingle
Torben Madson

Guests

Commissioner Anita Grove

I. Call to order

Elinor Mount-Simmons called to order the regular meeting of the Apalachicola Parks and Recreation committee at 5:40 pm on Thursday, July 15, 2021, at the Apalachicola Margaret Key Memorial Library.

II. Approval of minutes from the previous meeting

Faye Gibson circulated the minutes from June 17, 2021. Torben Madson moved that the minutes be approved. Donna Ingle seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

III.

A. Old business

1. Programs/plan updates

- a) *Sylvester Williams Park* Elinor Mount-Simmons presented an analysis of Sylvester Williams park and there was discussion about the future use of the park including the feasibility of restoring the ball fields to use for adult tournament play. Torben reminded the committee that the major financial impediment to those plans is the cost of relocating lights. A trench on the property needs to be filled and wasps removed from the dugouts. There was also discussion about suspended plans to demolish abandoned pump house.
- b) *The Dog Park* Torben Madson reported that users of the park greatly appreciate the city crew that ran a water line to the small dog park. The location of the water line still requires a hose for water to reach the large dog area. Water that is in the long hose gets scalding hot from sitting in the sun requiring water is wasted while it runs to a temperature tolerable for dogs. Suggestion is that a follow-up request to city water crews to extend the water line be made. Faye Gibson suggested a thank you be sent to the water crew for the work that has been done.
- c) *Chapman Botanical Garden and Veteran's Memorial Plaza* Faye Gibson suggested that while both of these properties are currently under a lease contract with the State, the terms of the agreement may need to be discussed. This is particularly true of Veteran's Memorial Plaza since much of the maintenance has been subsidized by Jimmy Mosconis privately and the Three Soldier's nonprofit. Mr. Mosconis's health may limit his ability to coordinate the maintenance in the future. With the date for a City/State report on the lease about two years away, it may be wise to anticipate modifications.

- d) Citizen recognition plan. Elinor Mount-Simmons and Faye will draft a concept and send to the committee prior to presentation to the city commission at their next meeting.
- e) Park plan. Donna will send a draft to Faye who will personalize it and send it to each committee member. Each committee member will complete their park plan.

2. Citizen recognition plan

The committee opened discussion of the citizen recognition/memorialization plan prepared by Faye Gibson. Conversation primarily centered on the first suggestion in the plan to establish citizen nominated awards, who would administer the awards, how would citizens be affected by individuals being singled out for awards and whether a city-wide luncheon in honor of all volunteers, as was done under a former administration, is a better way to inspire citizen involvement. The idea was shelved for further discussion. If the plan is to be presented to the city commission, request to be added to the agenda must be submitted by July 27.

3. Park plans

Committee members are encouraged to use the existing template to develop a park plan for the park for which they serve as liaison. Documents are now available at the committee's dropbox. See emails for links to the dropbox.

4. City squares – no report

B. Standing committees

1. There was no report on the city commission meeting.
2. The Adopt-a-Park program is working. There may need to be some adjustments within the city office so that adoptees will have access to information and supplies for the program whether or not the city employee coordinating the program is available. The committee suggested designating a specific area in City Hall with signage and having all materials pertinent to the program available there.

C. New business

1. Adopt-a-Park logo

Faye Gibson showed the committee designs for a logo/identity system for the Adopt-a-Park program. The logo will be presented to the city commission at a future meeting.

2. Lynn Wilder requests the committee support for a city-wide clean-up day

The committee offers their endorsement of her plan to organize an ongoing community clean up.

IV. Adjournment

After some shared news, Elinor Mount-Simmons adjourned the meeting at 6:20 PM.

Minutes submitted by: Faye Gibson, secretary